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9 MARCH 1968  
DIAIS-57-68

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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY (U)**



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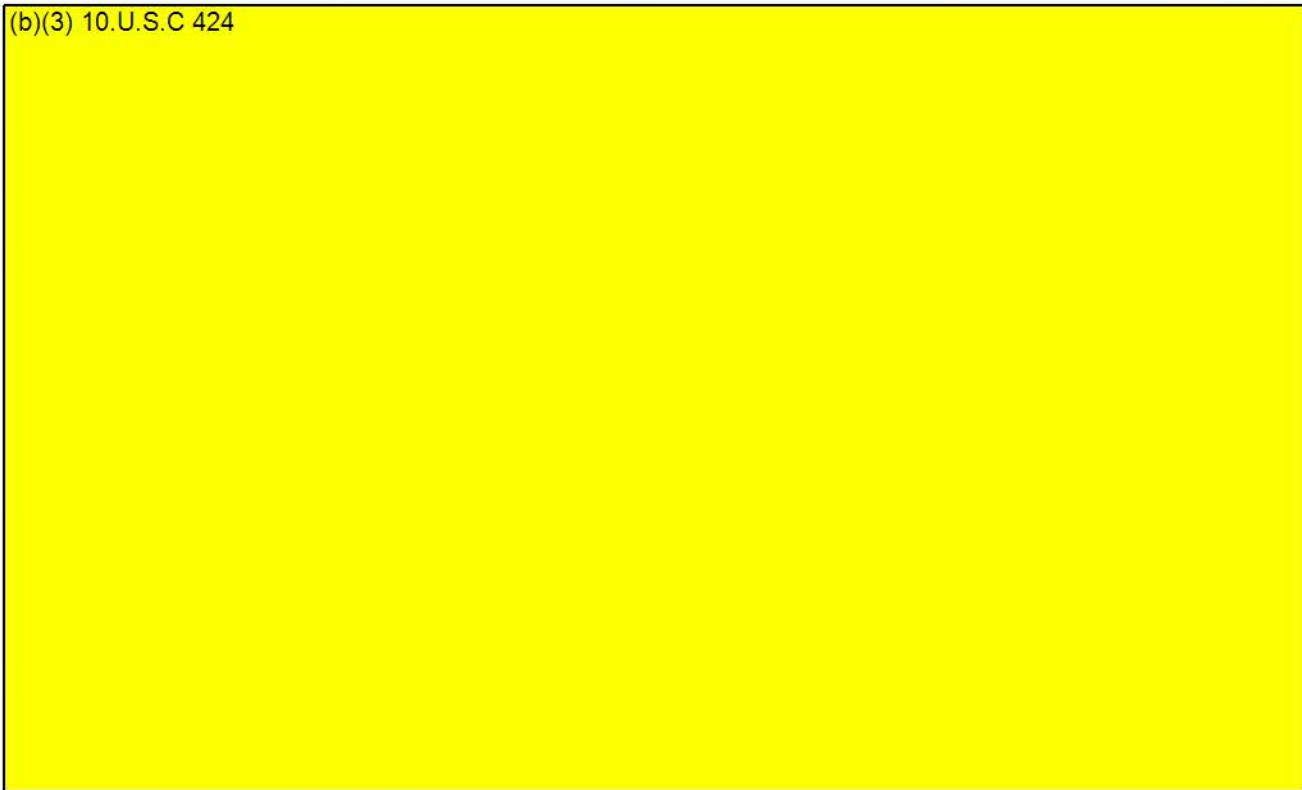
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~~TOP SECRET~~

(b)(3) 10.U.S.C  
424

## DIA INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Non Responsive

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VIETNAM AND RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

REPUBLIC OF  
VIETNAM:

Situation report.

A-6

NOTE:

The second paragraph on Page 3 of DIA Intelligence Supplement DIAISUP 67-68 dated 7 March and entitled "Armor, Artillery, and Airborne Threat Against South Vietnam" mentions the destruction of two "tanks" by artillery fire in the Con Thien area. Subsequent reporting from MACV on 7 March indicates that the two "tanks" were probably wooden dummies employed by the NVA for deception. Mention is also made of photographs of two possible tanks some 15 miles west of Hue. MACV reports on 7 March that further evaluation of 28 and 29 February photographs failed to disclose any tanks in the referenced area. (TOP SECRET TRINE)

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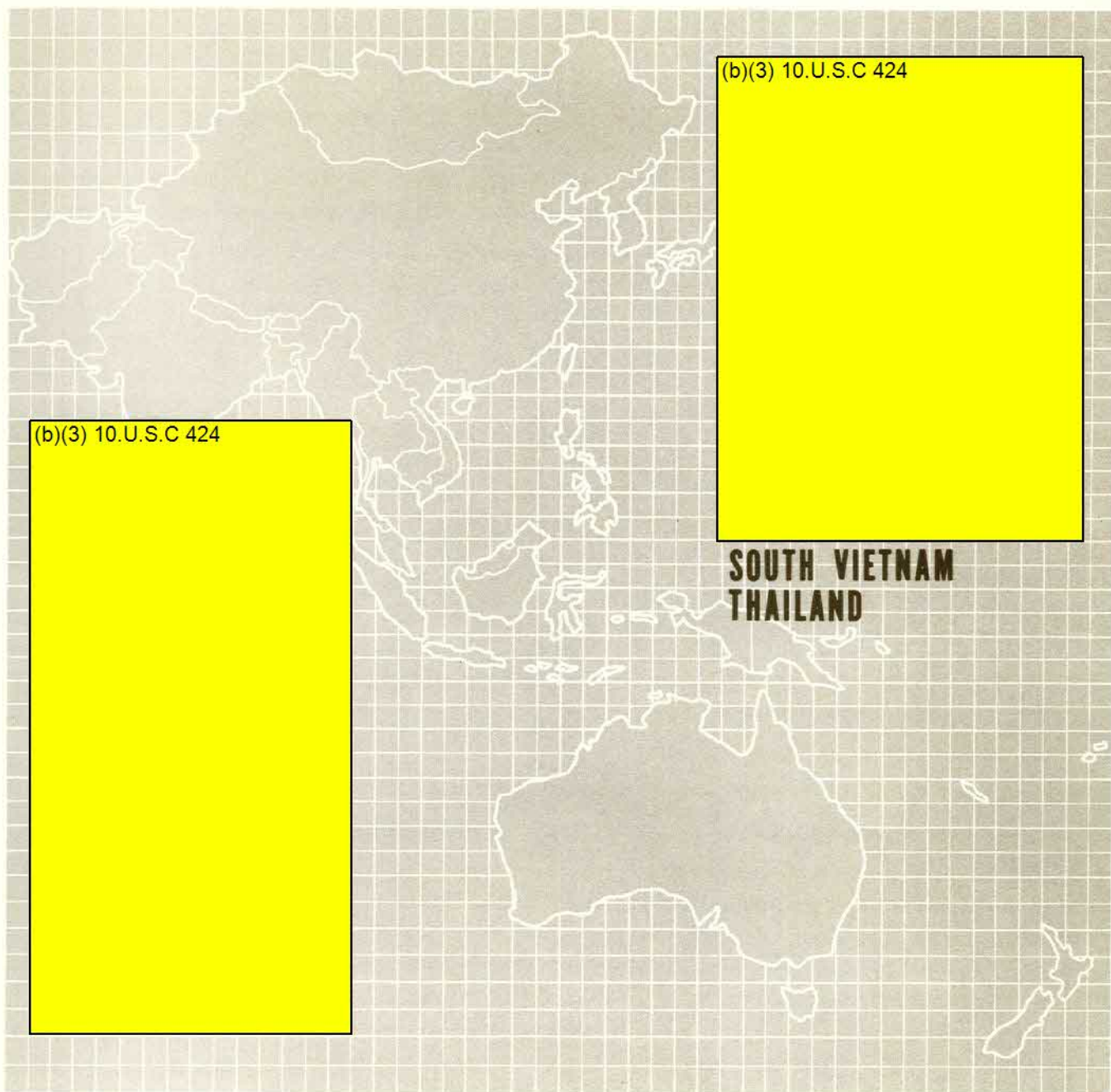
(b)(3) 10.U.S.C  
424

Page 04 of 28

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(b)(3) 10.U.S.C 424

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**SOUTH VIETNAM**  
**THAILAND**



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10.U.S.C 424

Cambodia Seizes Communist Arms Shipment

Cambodia seized a motorized junk loaded with weapons off its southern coast near the South Vietnamese border on 3 March.

Prince Sihanouk claims that the grenades, Chinese-made weapons, and rockets on board were destined for "Reds" in the Prey Nop Precinct of Kampot Province and that the crew consisted of three Vietnamese Communists and two Red Khmers.

It is possible, nevertheless, that the cargo was scheduled to be delivered to South Vietnam. A Viet Cong prisoner claimed recently that his comrades in South Vietnam's 4th Corps were receiving arms and ammunition from unknown sources in Cambodia. Moreover, the launch was captured near Ha Tien, which is allegedly a storage area for weapons; barges or sampans are said to carry them to South Vietnam. Finally, Sihanouk's reference to "rockets" -- if true -- tends to substantiate the possibility that the shipment was intended for South Vietnam.

(b)(3) 10.U.S.C 424

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10.U.S.C 424

~~TOP SECRET~~

(b)(3) 10.U.S.C  
424



Page 08 of 28

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Page 09 of 28

Withheld pursuant to exemption  
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Page 10 of 28

Withheld pursuant to exemption  
of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 11 of 28

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of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 12 of 28

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**VIETNAM  
AND  
RELATED DEVELOPMENTS**



Developments in South Vietnam

(C) Enemy-initiated activity was light on 8 March with only a few ground assaults and attacks by fire reported. The US Marine Base at Khe Sanh received some light shelling, and initial reports indicate that NVA forces conducted a probing action against the defense perimeter there. There are also indications of energetic enemy activity in the area.

1st Corps

(C) On 8 March, a joint US Marine and ARVN task force was heavily engaged in a clearing operation for the second consecutive day against a reinforced NVA battalion; the NVA unit has been threatening the allied strongpoint at Dong Ha in northeastern Quang Tri Province. Cumulative figures reported to date indicate the enemy has lost 164 killed and 26 weapons captured; allied casualties stand at 21 killed, 174 wounded, and 10 missing.

(C) Ambushes staged by US forces in Thua Thien Province on 8 March resulted in Communist losses of 42 killed; US losses were light. Also in Thua Thien, air strikes directed by a forward air controller approximately eight miles west of Hue killed 34 of an estimated 60-man enemy force.

(U) Unconfirmed press reports for 8 March indicate that elements of a South Vietnamese Ranger battalion, supported by US jet aircraft, repelled a North Vietnamese probe against the perimeter defenses at Khe Sanh. Twenty-seven of the attackers were killed; losses for the government forces were described as light.

(C) An unevaluated report of 7 March indicated the movement of 10 tanks and two trucks in a southerly direction in the area 19 miles west of Khe Sanh. Subsequent air strikes precipitated secondary explosions in this area.

(Continued)

CASUALTIES AND LOSSES FROM 062400H TO 072400H MARCH 1968

<u>1st Corps</u>	<u>US</u>	<u>ARVN</u>	<u>FWF</u>	<u>ENEMY</u>
KIA	23	18	0	311
WIA	130	55	0	--
MIA	0	0	0	--
DETAINED	--	--	--	76
 <u>2d Corps</u>				
KIA	1	17	0	58
WIA	8	24	0	--
MIA	0	0	0	--
DETAINED	--	--	--	6
 <u>3d Corps</u>				
KIA	11	2	0	86
WIA	56	15	1	--
MIA	0	0	0	--
DETAINED	--	--	--	2
 <u>4th Corps</u>				
KIA	0	12	0	117
WIA	0	52	0	--
MIA	0	0	0	--
DETAINED	--	00	--	0
 <u>Corps Total</u>	<u>US</u>	<u>ARVN</u>	<u>FWF</u>	<u>ENEMY</u>
KIA	35	49	0	572
WIA	194	146	1	--
MIA	0	0	0	--
DETAINED	--	--	--	84
 <u>WEAPONS SEIZED</u>				
INDIVIDUAL	11	18	20	14
CREW-SERVED	1	1	5	7
TOTAL	<u>12</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>21</u>
 TOTAL:	77			



(b)(3) 10.U.S.C 424;Sec. a prisoner interrogation reveal the possibility that a new unidentified artillery unit may be supporting enemy units at Khe Sanh. This entity, possibly a regiment, may have been transferred from Military Region 4.

(b)(3) 10.U On 8 March, Dong Ha Base received 80 rounds of mixed 140-mm rocket and artillery fire. The barrage killed 13 friendly troops and wounded 28. The enemy pressure at Dong Ha possibly indicates continuing attempts to cut the Dong Ha-Cua Viet supply line and preserve the enemy's reported supply route that runs from the eastern DMZ to the Hue-Quang Tri City area.

### 2d Corps

(b)(3) The situation was generally quiet throughout the 2d Corps area during the past 24 hours. Pleiku City received 30 rounds of 82-mm mortar fire and the MACV Headquarters in Kontum City received one enemy rocket round; Phan Thiet in Binh Thuan Province experienced small arms fire near the city. Road travel between Kontum City and Dak To reportedly has been halted as a result of interdiction by enemy mines.

(C) US troops engaged in Operation MACARTHUR in Kontum Province killed 13 of a 15-man enemy force encountered some eight miles west of Dak To. Eighteen 122-mm rocket rounds were also captured.

(b)(3) 10.U.S.C 4 Ninh Thuan, Lam Dong, and Quang Duc, three provinces in southern 2d Corps which were not hit by the enemy's "Tet offensive," have all been reporting an increase in VC activity in the countryside. Generally, this activity is in the form of hamlet entry for propaganda purposes, food collection, and recruitment of youths. According to field reports, while the people in these provinces remain basically GVN oriented, there has been a continuing decline in their confidence in the GVN's ability to protect them. Highways in Ninh Thuan and in Lam Dong are open for the most part, but in Quang Duc traffic is subject to constant VC harassment and taxation.

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~~(C)~~ In three areas of 2d Corps, enemy forces appear to be controlling or planning to control civilian movement between provincial capitals and the surrounding rural areas. Enemy propagandists in villages around Pleiku City reportedly are organizing the people to march on the city in protest against the government.

~~(C)~~ Further south in coastal Khanh Hoa Province, National Police reports indicate that VC intelligence agents are studying the Nha Trang traffic pattern. Reportedly they intend to force the people to sacrifice their lives and property by participating in demonstrations concurrent with a forthcoming attack. The "attack" is to be part of a coming "general offensive" in late March, according to the report.

(b)(3) 10.U. In Darlac Province, field reports indicate that the Viet Cong are controlling access of villagers to Ban Me Thuot City. In some instances, VC cadre dressed as villagers are making all necessary trips to the city to purchase food and other supplies for the villagers. Such actions in three separate provinces, if true, indicate that the enemy still hopes to improve his chances of taking control of provincial capitals by infiltrating enemy troops disguised as protesting civilians prior to or during future attacks.

### 3d Corps

(b)(3) There was no significant enemy-initiated activity reported in 3d Corps on 8 March. This low level of activity suggests that the enemy forces may be attempting to regroup and refit, as evidenced by the reported movement of elements of the 5th and 9th VC Divisions and 7th NVA Division to locations near War Zone D. It may also suggest that enemy forces are attempting to replace heavy losses prior to any new activity. Intensive recruiting reportedly taking place throughout the corps area supports this.

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(b)(3) (b)(3) 10.U.S.C 424;Sec. 3.3(b) (1) enemy preparations for offensive activity, primarily against Long Binh and other locations in Binh Duong and Bien Hoa Provinces, probably by rocket or mortar attack. Relatively light ground action was reported in Hau Nghia and Binh Duong Provinces, where US and ARVN forces killed 25 of the enemy in three separate engagements; allied losses were light.

#### 4th Corps

~~(C)~~ In Dinh Tuong Province, the 4th Battalion of the 47th ARVN Infantry Regiment was brought by helicopter into a hot landing zone to reinforce a linking-up operation on the night of 8 March. The unit was supported by artillery and armed helicopters, but the action continues. Government forces have lost three killed and 27 wounded; enemy losses are unknown.

(b)(3) Reports from a Vietnamese official and residents of My Tho City in Dinh Tuong Province, as stated in a field report, indicate the people are beginning to show a decline in morale and in their allegiance to the GVN. The primary reasons given for this decline are: failure of the GVN to provide security; corruption; soaring prices; failure of the GVN to execute rebuilding programs; and looting by the ARVN. Anxiety caused by fear and uncertainty also appears throughout many of the delta cities as the Viet Cong continue to harass and attempt to isolate the population centers.

(b)(3) (b)(3) 10.U.S.C 424;Sec. 3.3(b) (1) four suspected battalion-size units are believed to be located between My Tho, Dinh Tuong Province, and Tan An, Long An Province, along Route 4. A possible forward element of the MR 2 headquarters also relocated to this area in early March. Although this information is based on tenuous reports, it may signify a further attempt by Com-

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munist forces to interdict major lines of communication leading into the capital. Cutting the supply line to Saigon not only could increase the pressure on the GVN in providing for the city population but also brings economic hardships through loss of revenue to the delta. There have been field reports from the delta of unharvested rice crops remaining in the field because the crops cannot be transported to markets. (b)(3) 10.U.S.C 424;Sec.

(b)(3) 10.U.S.C 424;Sec. 3.3(b)

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Page 21 of 28

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Page 22 of 28

Withheld pursuant to exemption  
of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 23 of 28

Withheld pursuant to exemption  
of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 24 of 28

Withheld pursuant to exemption  
of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act



Page 25 of 28

Withheld pursuant to exemption  
of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 26 of 28

Withheld pursuant to exemption  
of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 27 of 28

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